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# Safe Seat

Guidelines for  
Child Passenger Safety

**Jesse White**

**Secretary of State**



Illinois Department  
of Transportation  
Division of Traffic Safety

# General Child Seat Use Information

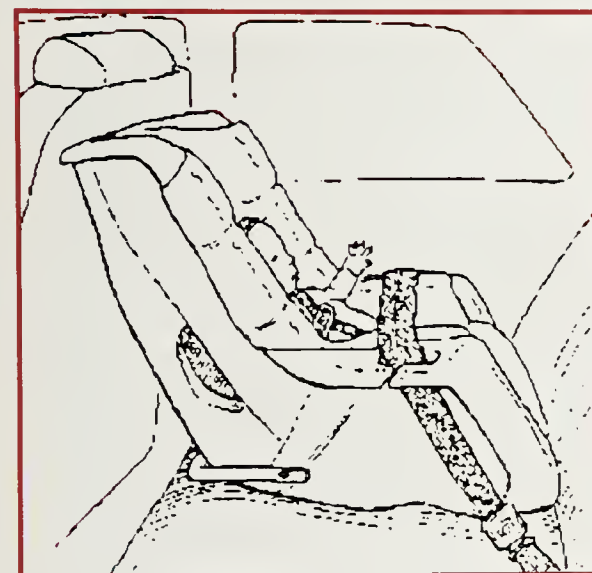
Children should ride in the back seat. Always follow manufacturer's instructions for height and weight guidelines.

## Infants



Birth to at least 1 year and at least 20 pounds:

Rear-facing infant seat or convertible seat used rear-facing.



Less than 1 year and 20-35 pounds:

Rear-facing convertible seat — select one recommended for heavier infants.

- Never use in a front seat where an airbag is present.
- Tightly install child seat in back seat, facing the rear.
- Child seat should recline at approximately a 45 degree angle.
- Harness straps/slots at or below shoulder level.
- Harness straps snug on child; harness clip at armpit level.

## Preschoolers/Toddlers



1 to 4 years and at least 20 pounds up to approximately 40 pounds:

Convertible seat used forward-facing, forward-facing only seat or high-back booster with internal harness.

- Tightly install child seat in rear seat, facing forward.
- Harness straps/slots at or above shoulder level.
- Harness straps snug on child; harness clip at armpit level.

## Young Children



4 to 8 years; approximately 40-80 pounds and under 4 ft., 9 in. (57 in.) tall:

Belt-positioning booster seat (no back) or high-back, belt-positioning booster.

- Belt-positioning booster seats are always used with a vehicle's lap and shoulder belts. Never use with lap-only belts.
- Booster seats should be used with adult lap and shoulder belts in the back seat.
- Belt should rest snugly across the chest, rests on shoulder; belt should NEVER be placed under the arm or behind the back.
- Lap-belt should rest low across the lap/upper thigh area — not across the stomach.

For more information or to schedule an appointment for a child safety seat inspection, please call:

**866-247-0213**

[WWW.CYBERDRIVEILLINOIS.COM](http://WWW.CYBERDRIVEILLINOIS.COM)

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# CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY BEGINS WITH YOU!

## Keep Me in a Safe Seat

Your child deserves the very best protection while riding in your vehicle. The best child safety seat is one that fits the child and the vehicle, and is used correctly every time.

Remember that children and airbags do not mix — the safest place for young passengers is in the back seat. This brochure provides general guidelines for securing your child in a safety seat.

My office provides child safety seat inspections at several Driver Services facilities throughout the state. I encourage you to visit one of these fitting stations to ensure that your child's seat is properly installed and meets federal guidelines for your child's height and weight. For more information or to schedule a child safety seat inspection, please call 866-247-0213.

Children are our most precious cargo. Keep them in a safe seat.

*Jesse White*

Jesse White  
Secretary of State



# CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY TIPS



NEVER place a rear-facing safety seat in the front passenger seat if the vehicle is equipped with a passenger airbag that has not been shut off with a switch.



When installing a child safety seat, secure the seat tightly with the vehicle safety belt or by the LATCH system. Always read the vehicle owner's manual.



Be sure your child is in the appropriate seat for the child's size. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for height and weight guidelines.



All child safety seats must meet the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213, which governs performance standards for child safety devices. Make sure the safety seat is clearly marked "Meets FMVSS 213."



To be notified of any recalls, register a child safety seat by sending the registration card to the manufacturer.



NEVER hold a child on your lap while the vehicle is moving. In a collision, the child is not protected from injury.



A pre-owned child safety seat should not be used unless you are certain it has never been involved in a crash, has all the pieces (including instructions), and has been checked for recalls.



Do not use a child safety seat that is more than six years old or one that has been involved in a crash.



Always use your safety belt. Parents who buckle up usually buckle up their children.



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